

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228105

63

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 SCS-03 L-03 RSC-01 /023 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:WTCLUVERIUS:DF

APPROVED BY NEA/AI - HHSTACKHOUSE

H - KFOLGER

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R 192202Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ILL TREATMENT OF AMCITS BY ISRAELI
OFFICIALS

1. SENATOR FULBRIGHT HAS ASKED DEPT TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF ILL TREATMENT OF AMCITS BY LOD AIRPORT OFFICIALS. ALLEGATIONS MADE BY JACK HEKIMIAN WHO WAS ONE OF FORTY-FOUR ARMENIAN AMERICANS WHO ARRIVED ISRAEL FROM CYPRUS SEPTEMBER 19 AFTER VISITING ARMENIAN COMMUNITIES IN SOVIET UNION AND LEBANON.

2. HEKIMIAN ALLEGES THAT GROUP WAS "HERDED" FROM AIRCRAFT TO REMOTE AREA AND, COVERED BY MACHINE GUNS, WERE SUBJECTED TO "ESPECIALLY HUMILIATING PERSONAL SEARCHES AND INTERROGATION." HEKIMIAN ALLEGES THAT PERSONS IN THEIR 70S WERE FORCED TO STRIP, QUESTIONED ABOUT SCARS ON THEIR BODIES, AND HAD THEIR BAGGAGE "NEEDLESSLY FORCED OPEN." HEKIMIAN STATES HE CANNOT SAY IF SUCH PRACTICES ARE ROUTINE BUT CLEARLY HE SUSPECTS IT WAS DUE TO GROUP BEING ARMENIANS WHO HAD VISITED LEBANON AND SOVIET UNION PRIOR ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL.

3. PLEASE LOOK INTO THIS CASE AND ADVISE, AND INCLUDE WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF THIS GROUP COMPLAINED TO EMBASSY
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AFTER ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL AND, IF SO, WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN

BY EMBASSY. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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